Contribution to Peace Research Abstracts.

Sperry, Roger W., Science and Moral Priority, Merging Mind, Brain and Values. New York, Columbia University Press 1983. First hardcover edition sold out. Paperback editions, Oxford: Blackwell, 1984 and New York: Praeger, 1985.

Science and Moral Priority addresses obstacles to world peace raised by the incompatible value systems of differing ideologies, world views, and religious beliefs. Exploring the implications of recent changes in concepts of brain and consciousness, Nobel Laureate Roger Sperry gives us the outlines for a unifying global ethic and value system that offers new promise for a universally acceptable framework on which to base international law, justice, and world order. A foundation for ultimate belief emerges in which the outlook of science can be fused with ethics, religion and human values.

Sperry explicates a new scientific view of nature: the purposeless, physically driven 'quantum mechanics' cosmos of traditional science is replaced with a universe in which mental and other higher vital, social and human forces, long renounced by science, exert downward control over the more elemental physical forces. Evolution is seen as a gradual emergence of increased directedness, purposefulness and meaning among the forces that move and govern living things. The ultimate criterion for right and wrong becomes the progressive enhancement of the quality of existence, making it immoral to pollute, to overpopulate, to deplete irreplaceable resources, or in any other way to destroy, desecrate, or despoil the quality of the biosphere for future generations.

Speaking to one mankind, being relatively neutral, and based on the universal truth of science, this new framework for belief seems to hold promise for something on which peoples of different faiths, ideologies and cultures might agree to compromise for purposes of world peace and global common welfare.